IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for <u>authorizing use of funds securely stored in</u> ~~operating~~ a device ~~for the secure storage of funds~~<u>,</u> comprising:

    ~~interfacing said device with a system;~~

    ~~immediately~~ <u>upon power-up of the device,</u> transmitting from ~~said~~ <u>the</u> device to ~~the system~~ <u>a remote device</u> [[a]] present location <u>information</u> of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> device<u>, wherein the present location information of the device is transmitted automatically by the device without any user interaction</u>;

    <u>determining, at the remote device, a present location of the device based on the present location information;</u>

    comparing<u>, at the remote device,</u> ~~in a database associated with said system~~ the present location of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> device with [[a]] previously stored location <u>information of the device</u>; [[and]]

    <u>determining, at the remote device, whether the present location of the device is within a predetermined region specified by the previously stored location information; and</u>

    <u>when the present location of the device is within the predetermined region,</u> transmitting to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> device from ~~said system~~ <u>the remote device</u> an authorization to use ~~utilize said~~ <u>the</u> funds<u>, and</u> ~~only if the present location is within a predetermined region associated with said previously stored location~~

    <u>when the present location of the device is not within the predetermined region, transmitting to the device from the remote device a signal inhibiting use of the funds.</u>

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, <u>further comprising, when the present location of the device is not within the predetermined region, issuing a license for the device to use the funds at the present location of the device</u> ~~wherein said device is licensed for use at said previously stored location, and if the comparing indicates that the device is not in the predetermined region, the system issues a new license for a region associated with the present location of said device~~.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 3, further comprising transmitting from the remote device to the device wherein said device is a postal security device and said data includes at least one of a zip code, a city name and a state name corresponding to the present location of the device information.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein transmitting from the device comprises transmitting the present location information over a telephone line wherein if said contact is made by telephone, the location of said device is determined by using caller identification and if said contact is not made by telephone, other means are used to determine the location.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein transmitting from the device comprises transmitting the present location information over an internet connection wherein if said contact is made using a network, the location of said device is determined by obtaining a network address of said device and if said contact is not made using a network, other means are used to determine the location.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein transmitting from the device comprises transmitting the present location information over a cellular telephone system wherein if said contact is made using a cellular telephone port, the location of said device is determined using a location identifier of a cellular telephone system with

~~which said cellular telephone communicates and if said contact is not made using a~~
~~cellular telephone port, other means are used to determine the location.~~

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] <u>1, wherein transmitting from the</u>
<u>device comprises transmitting the present location information based on an output of</u>
~~wherein said device is associated with~~ a position determining apparatus <u>of the device</u> ~~for~~
~~determining its location, said device providing to said system its location as determined~~
~~by said position determining apparatus.~~

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13<u>,</u> wherein ~~said~~ <u>the</u> position ~~locating~~
<u>determining</u> apparatus is a global positioning system receiver.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said device is a postal security device.

16.   (Currently Amended) A device for the secure storage of funds<u>,</u> comprising:
        a memory for storing <u>a</u> value <u>indicative</u> of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> funds;
        <u>a location generator</u> ~~apparatus associated with said device~~ for <u>generating present</u>
<u>location information of the device</u> ~~determining the present location of said device~~; and
        a communication port for providing communication between ~~said~~ <u>the</u> device and a
<u>remote device</u> ~~system, said device immediately communicating said present location to~~
~~said system via said port~~ <u>wherein:</u>
            <u>the communication port transmits the present location information to the</u>
<u>remote device automatically upon power-up of the device and without any user</u>
<u>interaction;</u>
            <u>the communication port receives an authorization from the remote device</u>
<u>to use the funds when a present location of the device as determined from the present</u>
<u>location information indicates the present location of the device is within a</u>
<u>preauthorized region of operation, and</u>
            <u>the communication port receives a signal from the remote device inhibiting</u>
<u>use of the funds when the present location of the device indicates the present location of</u>
<u>the device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.</u>

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, further comprising ~~an~~ apparatus for encrypting ~~and digitally signing, or digitally signing said~~ communications between the device and the remote device.

20.   (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A system for ~~securely dispensing~~ managing the use of stored funds, comprising:

    a local device for ~~the~~ securely ~~storage of~~ storing the funds, ~~including~~ comprising:

        a memory for storing a value indicative of ~~said~~ the funds,

        a location generator for generating present location information of the local device ~~apparatus associated with said device for determining the present location of said device~~;

        a communication port for providing communication between ~~said~~ the local device and a remote device ~~system, said device immediately communicating said present location to said system via said port~~ wherein the communication port transmits the present location information to the remote device automatically upon power-up of the device and without any user interaction; and

    the remote device, comprising:

        a database storing a preauthorized region of operation for the local device, wherein:

            the remote device compares a present location of the local device provided by the present location information to the preauthorized region of operation;

            the remote device issues an authorization to the local device to use the funds if the present location of the local device is within the preauthorized region of operation,

            the remote device issues a signal to the local device inhibiting use of the funds if the present location of the local device is outside the preauthorized region of operation

~~the system having a database for storing, for each device, a predetermined~~
~~location; and~~

~~apparatus in said system for providing an authorization to said device to dispense~~
~~funds only if said present location is within a region associated with said predetermined~~
~~location.~~

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising, transmitting from the remote device to a postal carrier a request for the license.

25.   (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining the present location of the device based on caller identification information.

26.   (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising determining the present location of the device based on a network address of the device.

27.   (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining the present location of the device based on a location identifier of the cellular telephone system.

28.   (New) The device of claim 16, further comprising an apparatus for digitally signing communications between the device and the remote device.

29.   (New) The device of claim 16, wherein the communication port receives from the remote device a license to use the funds at the present location of the device from the remote device when the present location of the device indicates the present location of the device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

30.   (New) The device of claim 16, wherein the location generator is a global position system receiver.

31.   (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the local device further comprises an apparatus for digitally signing communications between the local device and the remote device.

32.   (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the local device further comprises an apparatus for encrypting communications between the local device and the remote device.

33.   (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the communication port receives from the remote device a license to use the funds at the present location of the local device from the remote device when the present location of the local device indicates the present location of the local device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

34.   (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the remote device requests the license from a postal carrier.

35.   (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the location generator is a global position system receiver.